acceptable bidder has been issued for 12 Loco Simulators. Being a sophisticated equipment, procurement of this item warranted a detailed technical study of the offered equipment its technology & the reasonableness of the offered rates. The whole process is obviously time consuming. The purchase was thereafter made for the state of the art technology equipment at the most competitive prices.

(c) To achieve competitive rates, negotiation was conducted with the lowest acceptable tenderer as per guidelines of the Chief Vigilance Commission, duly following the latest procurement procedures laid down for Government purchase.

Medical facilities at railway stations of Rajasthan

1437. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide medical facilties at all the major railways stations in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, as a good will gesture, First Aid facilities are provided in emergencies for which First aid boxes are provided and staff trained in First Aid are available at all railway stations. Recently these First Aid boxes have been augmented with additional medicines and series of equipment to improve the services. A list of non railways medical facilities available in the vicinity of railway stations has also been compiled and has been made available at all Railways stations and also on Railnet for the convenience of the railways staff at the time of need.

Extension of Shatabdi Express upto Gorakhpur

†1438. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to extend the New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express upto Gorakhpur Junction.

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented; if not the reasons therefore; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for not linking Gorakhpur with Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains despite this city being the Head Quaters of North Eastern Railway and a major hub of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Shatabdi Express are high-speed premium daytime intercity services. These trains leave a particular station in the morning and return back the same evening. Gorakhpur is located about 783 Kms from Delhi and it is not found feasible to introduce Shatabdi type services having the above characteristics.

Rajdhani Express have been introduced to link State capitals with the Union capital. Thus, Linking Gorakhpur which is not a state capital by Rajdhani Express to Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata falls outside the purview of the above criteria.

Uneconomic rail lines in Orissa

1439. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 271, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:

(a) the number of branch lines which are running uneconomically at present and their total length, its percentage in kilometers of the total nation railways network, in; and

(b) how many of them exist in Orissa and the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The length of railway lines is maintained in Route Kilometers (RKMs) and Railway zone-wise and not State-wise. Total number of uneconomic branch lines in 2000-01 was 115. The total length of these lines account for 6965 Route Kilometres equal to 11% of total route Kms.

(b) Information regarding uneconomic branch lines is maintained Railway zone-wise and not State-wise.